

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 22, 2005. Claims 1 to 20 and 22 to 25 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 17 and 20 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment afforded during the June 16, 2005, telephonic interview with the Examiner. During that interview, agreement with respect to the claims was not reached.

Turning to the rejections, Claims 1 to 20 and 22 to 25 were rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 to 20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,320,769 (Kurokami '769). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Newly amended Claim 1 recites a power converting apparatus having a non-insulated converter and a non-insulated inverter to convert direct current power inputted from a power supply to alternating current power and to supply the alternating current power to a commercial power system which is grounded. The apparatus further comprises a detector for detecting a ground fault in response to a varied potential to ground of the power supply, and a controller for generating the varied potential to ground of the power supply while the detector is detecting for a ground fault. Generating the varied potential to ground of the power supply includes varying an input voltage of the converter and/or an intermediate voltage between the converter and the inverter.

Independent Claims 17 and 20 are apparatus and method claims, respectively, that correspond generally to the apparatus of independent Claim 1.

Claims 1 to 20 of Kurokami '769 are not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 17 and 20, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of a detector for detecting a ground fault in response to a varied potential to ground of the power supply, and a controller for generating the varied potential to ground of the power supply while the detector is detecting for a ground fault.

With specific reference to Claim 1, Kurokami '769 recites a power converter that comprises a converter, an inverter, a switch, a detector, and a controller. More specifically, Claim 1 of Kurokami '769 recites that the controller controls operation of the converter, inverter and switch. When the detector detects a ground fault, the controller changes the switch to an open state, blocks a gate of the inverter, and holds an output voltage of the converter to be higher than a peak value of an alternate current voltage of the power system until at least said switch changes to the open state. The other claims of Kurokami '769 are also seen to teach this feature of the controller.

Thus, Claim 1 to 20 of Kurokami '769 are not seen to teach a detector for detecting a ground fault in response to a varied potential to ground of the power supply or a controller for generating the varied potential to ground of the power supply.

In addition, Claims 1 to 20 of Kurokami '769 are seen to teach a controller for controlling operations of the converter when the detector detects a ground fault. As such, Kurokami '769 is not seen to teach a controller for generating a varied potential to

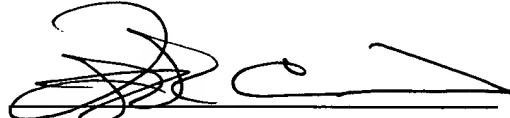
ground of the power supply while the detector is detecting for a ground fault, much less a detector detecting for a ground fault in response to the varied potential to ground. For this additional reason, independent Claims 1, 17 and 20 of the present invention are seen to differ non-obviously from Claim 1 to 20 of Kurokami '769, and are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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